

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended)

A swimming aid comprising:

a body portion;

locating means for the foot of a user located on top of said body portion;

a flexible web extending laterally from said body portion; and

at least two segmented ribs disposed on said flexible web and said ribs extending laterally and divergently from said body portion towards the edge of said flexible web, the segments of each of said ribs cooperating to stiffen said flexible web against flexion substantially above the plane of said body portion.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (previously presented)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, wherein said locating means fully encloses the user's foot.

Claim 4 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, wherein said locating means is partially open at ~~one or both of the toes and heel of the user's foot.~~

Claim 5 (previously presented)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, wherein said flexible web comprises a ball region, a heel region and an intermediate region of lesser lateral extent than said ball and heel regions.

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Reply to Office action of 9 February 2006

Claim 6 (previously presented)

The swimming aid according to claim 5, wherein said ball region is of greater lateral extent than said heel region.

Claim 7 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, additionally comprising tuning webs disposed at at least one of one or both of a toe region or and an arch region of said body portion.

Claim 8 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 7, wherein ~~the said~~ flexible web includes at least one tuning webs ~~disposed at one or both a toe region or an arch region include a~~ composed a segmented rib disposed thereon.

Claim 9 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 7, wherein at least one of said flexible web and said tuning webs are formed integrally with said locating means and said body portion.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, claim 8, or claim 10, wherein said tuning ribs are segmented by cuts or excisions and are hingedly interconnected by the material of the flexible web.

Claim 12 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, claim 8, or claim 10, wherein said tuning ribs include individual segments linked via a flexible linking means.

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Claim 13 (original)

The swimming aid according to claim 12, wherein the linking means is in each case a hinge.

Claim 14 (previously presented)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, claim 8 or claim 10, wherein said individual segments block together to provide said stiffening of the web.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said locating means and/or said flexible web ~~are/is comprised of~~ comprises a material selected from the group including natural or synthetic rubber, leather or polymer material.

Claim 17 (new)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, wherein said locating means is partially open at the heel of the user's foot.

Claim 18 (new)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, wherein said locating means is partially open at the toes and heel of the user's foot.

Claim 19 (new)

The swimming aid according to claim 1, additionally comprising tuning webs disposed at the toe and an arch region of said body portion.

Claim 20 (new)

The swimming aid according to claim 19, wherein said tuning webs each include a segmented rip disposed thereon.